

South Dakota State Historical Society Historical Marker Policy

1. All historical markers produced in the official South Dakota Highway Marker design and incorporating official seals must be approved and purchased through the South Dakota State Historical Society.
2. Historical markers are purchased by state, county, or local agencies, non-profit agencies, historical societies, and private groups or individuals. The markers are considered state property and become the property of the State when purchased.
3. The State does not pay for the repair, refurbishing, or replacement of existing markers unless funding has been appropriated for this specific purpose. The State will assist with the logistics of having a marker repaired if private donors supply the funds.
4. Directional highway signage for historical markers is contingent upon South Dakota Department of Transportation (DOT) approval and funding. Directional signs will only be provided in special circumstances.
5. A historical marker costs approximately \$2,490 and must be paid in full upon billing from Sewah Studios. [See Sewah Studios Marker Prices page.](#) Prices are subject to change.
6. If the marker is placed on a state road, a traffic engineer will select the site but will consider the proposed location as stated in the marker application.
7. The State Historic Preservation Office staff will provide assistance in wording and design of marker text. The State Historical Society cannot support casting information that is not verifiable in the historic record or text that is not well written and concise.
8. The State Historic Preservation Office will arrange for the order and billing for the historical marker. Upon receipt of payment, Sewah Studios will work with the Department of Transportation (if marker is located on state road) or with the applicant to arrange delivery.
9. All markers are the same pattern and have a lettering panel measuring 30" high and 42" wide. The panels accommodate approximately 200 words in 5/8" print. Larger print sizes (1", 1 1/2", and 2") are available at slightly lower cost but significantly reduce the amount of text.

NOTE: Any special requests for marker size, text layout, or other design will not be approved for order without prior consultation with State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) staff and written approval from the SHPO and Sewah Studios. Please allow extra time for review and approval if requesting special markers.

[**Back to Historical Markers**](#)